

Some Typical Conversions to Wavelength

X-rays and gamma-rays: converting from energy (eV, keV, MeV) to wavelength (μm):

$$\lambda = 1.241 / E$$

where λ is wavelength in μm , E is energy in eV.

$$\lambda = (1.241 \times 10^{-3})/E$$

where λ is wavelength in μm , E is energy in keV.

$$\lambda = (1.241 \times 10^{-6})/E$$

where λ is wavelength in μm , E is energy in MeV.

$$\lambda = (1.241 \times 10^{-9})/E$$

where λ is wavelength in μm , E is energy in GeV.

The above expressions are derived from the equation

$$\lambda = h c/E,$$

where λ = wavelength, h = Planck's constant, c = speed of light, and E = energy.

They are to be used only for electromagnetic waves (UV, X-rays, gamma-rays), not for particles (protons, neutrons, electrons, etc.).

Infrared: converting from wavenumbers (cm^{-1}) to wavelength (μm):

$$\lambda = 10^4/k$$

where λ is wavelength in μm , k is wavenumber in cm^{-1} .

Miscellaneous:

$$1 \mu\text{m (micrometer or micron)} = 10^{-6} \text{ m}$$

$$1 \text{ nm (nanometer)} = 10^{-9} \text{ m}$$

$$1 \text{ \AA (angstrom)} = 10^{-10} \text{ m (seldom used)}$$

Converting wavelength in nm to μm :

$$\lambda (\mu\text{m}) = 10^{-3} \times \lambda (\text{nm})$$